# Update on the Quarterly Reports Submitted by Argosy University
## Professional Services Division
## April 2009

**Overview of this Report**
This agenda item presents an update on the quarterly reports submitted by Argosy University and its next steps in the Commission's accreditation system.

**Staff Recommendation**
This is an information item only.

**Background**
The Argosy University (AU) initial accreditation visit took place April 20-23, 2008. On June 18, 2008 the COA made an accreditation decision of *Accreditation with Probationary Stipulations* and approved four Stipulations. One Stipulation requires a full team re-visit that will take place within one year.

Addressing the Stipulations:

1. On September 10, 2008 AU submitted a plan that described how it would address all stipulations and meet all standards. Feedback was provided by staff and additional information was submitted by AU. The plan was accepted by CTC staff.

2. AU submitted two Quarterly Progress reports: October 10, 2008 and January 10, 2008. A third report is due April 10, 2009. Each report describes continued progress in addressing all stipulations and meeting all standards.

3. The written plan submitted by AU on September 10, 2008 describes how the university will address all stipulations and meet all standards.

4. The AU full team re-visit is scheduled for May 4-6, 2009.

On September 11, 2008 AU representatives met with CTC staff to discuss course sequencing for the Multiple and Single Subject programs. Additional technical assistance, in the form of e-messages, has been sought and provided.

Addressing the Common Standards:

Common Standard 1- Educational Leadership: Argosy reports that, system wide:

- One person now oversees credential programs. Notification of the administrative restructuring was mailed to faculty.
- One full-time faculty member is dedicated to the coordination of credentials programs and working with the Program Chair to assure consistency and quality.

- To ensure consistency of practices, syllabi have undergone considerable revision. Meetings are held to review program policies and procedures to ensure candidates receive consistent direction, oversight and support.
- AU has consolidated and standardized procedures in data collection and retrieval that allows for more accurate, effective student advisement within the three Southern California sites. AU anticipates that the San Francisco campus data will be included by February 2009.
- The AU credentials analysts met and agreed upon common procedures that include an electronically-stored Petition to Register for Field Experience. The form requires the credential analysts to check off all necessary criteria for program advancement including proof of passing CBEST and CSET. Certification information about the clear credential is also now given to teacher preparation program candidates.

Common Standard 2 Resources: AU has hired two new administrative faculty members: one will coordinate the San Francisco credentials program and the other will be responsible for system-wide TPA administration and programs evaluation.

Common Standard 3 Faculty: AU now has program coordinators dedicated to the credential programs and anticipates that additional faculty will be allocated to the program as student enrollment increases. AU reports that it has implemented a staff development policy that now includes adjunct faculty.

Common Standard 4 Evaluation: AU reports that adjunct faculty and employers of graduates are invited to meetings that will focus on programs and programmatic improvement once a trimester. AU leadership meets with site administrators at the beginning of each field experience session and follows up with a similar meeting at the end of the experience. Site administrators are asked to provide written evaluation of the program at this last meeting. Mentor teachers will also be included in the program evaluation process.

Common Standard 6 Advice and Assistance: AU reports that attention is given to the BTSA induction process and that a document explaining BTSA is provided to credential candidates. As of July 1, 2008 candidates entering the programs are informed of the TPA requirement. Information about the TPA is also included in the candidate Field Experience Handbook. Course syllabi have been revised to include all TPEs. The TPA experience will be finalized through the capstone course.

Common Standard 7 School Collaboration: AU has actively sought participation in local BTSA advisory Boards by enlisting the help of an Administrator in the Professional Development Unit of the Department of Education to advise local BTSA Induction programs that AU is interested in serving as a member of their Advisory Boards. Documentation submitted shows that AU now serves on three Southern California BTSA Boards. It is anticipated that the San Francisco campus will collaborate with a local Northern California school district. AU also reports that BTSA representatives from two school districts now serve on the university's K-12 Education Advisory Board.

Common Standard 8 Field Supervisors: AU reports that Mentor Teachers are now offered the professional development opportunity to select graduate-level courses in the School of Education which they may take free of charge.

Addressing the Program Standards:
Program Standard 1(b) Sequence of Program: AU has examined the courses and their proper sequence and has re-designed and sequenced courses so that they align with the university's philosophy, vision and mission.  Candidates in each program begin with courses that provide a sound foundation in education.  Each subsequent course builds upon knowledge gained from previous courses.  This new course sequence and the common practices that are now in place ensures that no candidate is permitted to student teach prior to verification of subject matter knowledge.

PS 2(f) Partnerships with Professional Induction Programs:  Please see response to Common Standard 6 and Common Standard 7.

PS 14(a) Major Categories of Disabilities:  The syllabi for the courses in the Multiple Subject and Single Subject programs have been modified to include readings and assignments that cover successful inclusive teaching.

PS 17(a) Verification of Completion of Subject Matter Competence:  Please see response to Common Standard 1 and Program Standard 1(b).  AU reports that they discovered that their program erroneously allowed candidates to enter student teaching prior to completion of CSET prior to the initial accreditation visit and moved to correct the deficiency.  Procedures currently in place ensure that no candidate is allowed to student teach until they have satisfied the subject matter requirement.

**Next Steps:**
Argosy University has a full re-visit scheduled for May 4-6, 2009.  The report from this re-visit will be presented to the COA at its June 2009 meeting.